

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION, BY REQUEST, OF BILLS TO REAUTHORIZE THE PROGRAMS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AND APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, by request and with the bipartisan leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee—Ranking Member OBERSTAR, Public Buildings and Economic Development Subcommittee Chairman KIM, and Ranking Subcommittee Member TRAFICANT—two administration bills to reauthorize the programs of the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The administration bills form a good starting point for reauthorization and reform of the programs of both of these agencies. In particular, I am pleased to note that the legislation incorporates many of the reforms in the reauthorization bill (H.R. 2145) reported by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee last Congress.

Both of these agencies enjoy broad, bipartisan support in the House. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is prepared to move in an expeditious manner to consider the relevant issues and report reauthorization legislation. It is my expectation that the authorization will be combined into one bill, as has been the custom of the committee.

COMMEMORATING THE 82D ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand and join with my colleagues in commemorating the 82d anniversary of the Armenian genocide. I would like to thank the other members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and particularly the cochairmen Mr. PORTER and Mr. PALLONE, for their tireless efforts in organizing this fitting tribute.

On April 24, 1915, 82 years ago today, the nightmare in Armenia began. Hundreds of Armenian religious, political, and educational leaders were arrested, exiled, or murdered. These events marked the beginning of the systematic persecution of the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire, and also launched the first genocide of the 20th century. Over the next 8 years, 1.5 million Armenians were put to death and 500,000 more were exiled from their homes. These atrocities are among the most cruel and inhumane acts that have ever been recorded.

As we reflect today on the horrors that were initiated 82 years ago, I cannot help but be disturbed by those who wish to deny that these deeds occurred. Despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary—eyewitness accounts, official archives, photographic evidence, diplomatic reports, and testimony of survivors—they reject the claim that genocide, or any other crime for that matter, was perpetrated against Armenians. Well, history tells a different story.

Let me read a quote from Henry Morgenthau, Sr., U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire at the time: "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact * * *"

The world knows the truth about this tragic episode in human affairs. We will not allow those who wish to rewrite history to absolve themselves from responsibility for their actions. This evening's event here in the House of Representatives is testament to that fact. I would like to once again thank the organizers of this event and I would like to once again reaffirm my sincere thanks for being given the opportunity to participate in this solemn remembrance.

HONORING RAOUL WALLENBERG AND LILLIAN HOFFMAN

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today at 10:30 a.m. at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the U.S. Postal Service will unveil its new postage stamp honoring Raoul Wallenberg. This is a fitting tribute to a great man whose contributions to humanity deserve to live on in perpetuity.

Raoul Wallenberg was a young Swedish diplomat who risked his own life in rescuing many tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during World War II. Through great acts of personal bravery, Wallenberg saved many would-be victims of the Nazi executioners by providing Swedish protective passports to thousands of Jews he had never met. He pulled some out of death trains and others from the ranks of death marches.

In one notable incident, Wallenberg, a slightly built 32-year-old, boldly threatened a Nazi general preparing to bomb a Jewish ghetto to the ground. Through this intervention alone, some 70,000 Jews were saved from death. He demonstrated how a strong character and unwavering determination could force even the brutal Nazi occupiers to spare some of the Hungarian Jews who had been marked for death.

Upon the cessation of hostilities in World War II, Wallenberg's trials did not likewise end. Because of his implacable hostility to-

ward oppression, Soviet military officials persecuted him and ultimately arrested him early in 1945. After his incarceration, he disappeared into the Soviet gulag prison camp, never to emerge again. Though the Soviets claimed in 1957 that he had died in 1947 of a heart attack, reliable eyewitnesses report sightings of Wallenberg long after that year. To this day, no one outside of Russia knows what truly happened to Wallenberg, whether he is still alive, or when he may have died.

On this occasion, it is wholly appropriate to also honor the hard work and dedication of the late Lillian Hoffman of Denver, CO, who worked tirelessly to ensure that Wallenberg's contributions to the world lived on. She purchased and donated the bronze bust of Raoul Wallenberg that currently resides in the Capitol rotunda. During her own distinguished lifetime, Lillian spent more than two decades working to further the cause of human rights wherever they were in danger or violated. Continuing the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg, Lillian chaired the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry. In this capacity, Lillian personally assisted numerous people who were persecuted in Russia and the Soviet Union because of their religious beliefs. She helped them obtain exit visas so they could begin new lives in freedom in Israel and the United States. It was one of the most enjoyable experiences of my career knowing and working closely with Lillian for so many years. Her passing, like that of Wallenberg's, was mourned by all freedom and tolerance loving peoples around the world.

So, today it is fitting to salute both Raoul Wallenberg for his humanitarian deeds and Lillian Hoffman for her generosity in donating the bust of Raoul Wallenberg to the people of the United States. In Raoul and Lillian's honor, we must never forget what transpired during that dark chapter in human history, nor the shining acts of personal bravery that guided us through it. By so doing, both Raoul and Lillian will live on through all of us.

HONORING 50 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today honoring Mr. Robert E. Waxman, a career civilian with the Department of the Navy.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 50 years, Bob Waxman has and continues to serve this Nation and the U.S. Navy with his unceasing commitment to excellence. Today, I pause to pay tribute to this great public servant because it is apparent that Bob Waxman has no intentions of slowing down any time in the near future. There are many measures to examine the life and labors of an individual. Some would point to aptitude, attitude, or the

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